

For immediate release
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Contact: Pam Robbins, (541) 618-2456
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Recruitment Begins for Resource Advisory Councils

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking applicants for 16 positions on Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Washington and Oregon. These RACs advise and recommend management strategies for federal lands east of the Cascade Range administered by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The Eastern Washington RAC is seeking five applicants, the John Day-Snake RAC has six terms expiring, and the Southeast Oregon RAC will fill five positions. The nomination period ends **April 22, 2002.**

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires RACs to be balanced and represent the various interests concerned with public land management. Interest areas with terms expiring this year are: energy and minerals, transportation and rights-of-way, commercial recreation and/or off-highway vehicle (OHV), commercial timber, dispersed recreation, national or regional environmental groups, archaeological or historical, public-at-large, academicians, and wild horse and burro.

Individuals can nominate themselves or others, and current members whose terms will expire in September can be renominated. Candidates must reside in the state where the council has jurisdiction. For a nomination form or additional information, please contact Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management, (pam_robbins@or.blm.gov), 3040 Biddle Rd, Medford, Oregon 97504, (541) 618-2456, or your local BLM district office. More RAC information is on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/spokane/RAC/racindex.htm>, <http://www.or.blm.gov/seor-rac>, and <http://www.or.blm.gov/johndaysnake-rac>.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land (262 million surface acres) than any other Federal Agency. Of this, about 164 million acres are permitted for livestock grazing. Most of the country's BLM-managed public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The agency, which has a budget of \$1.8 billion and a workforce of 10,000 employees, also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's "multiple-use" mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing for such resources as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and energy and mineral development that helps meet the nation's energy needs, and by conserving natural, historic, cultural and other resources on the public lands.

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RAC FACT SHEET

The RACs are an integral part of land management for federal agencies. Local RACs provide critical input on developing management plans for areas such as Southeast Oregon, Lakeview, the John Day River, Hells Canyon, and the Interior Columbia Basin. They produced the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management, and the Southeast Oregon RAC was essential to developing legislation that conserves and protects the Steens Mountain area.

Council members are unpaid, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. The RACs usually meet quarterly within their geographic area. Appointees serve a 3-year term. Current recruitment and specific RAC information follows:

Eastern Washington RAC	
<u>Positions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy and/or mineral interests• Transportation or rights-of-way• Commercial recreation or off-highway vehicle (OHV)• Archaeological or historical values• National or regional environmental organization	<u>Geographic area</u> Resources located in whole or in part within the Spokane District of the BLM and the Colville and Okanogan National Forests.
John Day-Snake RAC	
<u>Positions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy and/or mineral interests• Transportation or rights-of-way• Commercial timber industry• National or regional environmental organization• Public-at-large• Academician	<u>Geographic area</u> Federal lands in the northeastern portion of Oregon including Hells Canyon National Recreation Area lands in Idaho, and the Snake River drainages in Southeast Washington.
Southeast Oregon RAC	
<u>Positions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy and/or mineral interests• Transportation or rights-of-way• Commercial recreation or off-highway vehicle (OHV)• Wild horse and burro• Dispersed recreation	<u>Geographic area</u> Most federal lands in Southeast Oregon.

Nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications. Nominees will be evaluated based on their experience working with the interest area they choose to represent, and their knowledge of the Council's geographic area. Nominees must also have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

Submit nominations by April 22, 2002 to:

Bureau of Land Management

Attn: Pam Robbins

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